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FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 27, 1863.

FORT DONELSON.

(Continued from yesterday.)

The statements of Gen. Forrest, Col. John C. Birch, Maj. G. A. Henry, Jr., Maj. Hunter Nicholson and Maj. W. H. Haynes of Miss., made under oath, confirm and establish beyond all doubt the positions of Gens. Floyd and Pillow as above stated by themselves.

Gen. Forrest states as follows: During the conversation that ensued amongst the General Officers, Gen. Pillow was in favor of trying to cut our way out. Gen. Buckner said he could not hold his position over half an hour in the morning, and that if attempted to take his forces out, it would be seen by the enemy who held part of his entrenchments, and be followed and cut to pieces. I told him I would take my cavalry around them, and he could draw out under cover of them. He said an attempt to cut our way out would involve a loss of three-fourths of the command. Gen. Floyd said our forces were so demoralized as to cause him to agree with Gen. Buckner, as to our probable loss in attempting to cut our way out. I said I would agree to cut any way through the enemy's lines at any point the Gen. might designate, and stated that I could keep back their cavalry which Gen. Buckner thought would greatly harass our infantry in retreat. Gen. Buckner remarked, I am confident the enemy will attack my lines by night, and I can not hold them half an hour. Gen. Pillow replied quickly, why not? Gen. Buckner replied I can bring into action only about 1000 men, and much demoralized, by long exposure and hard fighting while in camp, being my amount of fresh troops. Gen. Floyd replied; I differ with you, I think you can hold your lines, I think you can sit, see. Buckner replied I know my position, and I know that the lines cannot be held, and that my troops in their present condition,

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The Naval Expedition off the Southern Coast.

(From the *Mathewson*, Captain of the 21st.)

The Northern papers give as nothing positive of the formidable naval expedition gathering on the Southern coast. There are abundant rumors and speculations as to the military character of the North's purpose—a reoccupation and secession of its real object—driving out the Southern Confederacy to leave, and remarked that all who wanted to go could follow me, and those who wished to stay and take the consequences might remain to camp. All of my own regiment and Capt. Williams of Helms' Ky. regiment, said they would go with me if the last man fell.

The sailing of the expedition— to operate against Charleston, I believe, was one of the grandest sight Lever witnessed. The fleet consisted of about 125 sail of vessels, steamers, transports, tugs and schooners, including the ironclads, ironclad, and gunboats, and the transports, the most numerous, counted 50 small vessels and 22 steamers.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times, speaking on the point of destination of the expedition, writes:

There is no doubt with me concerning the fact that the vessel which mysteriously disappears, North Carolina, which is said to be cutting the main line of railroad which connects Charleston and Richmond. This ship, at all events, did the rebels no good to learn that Charleston will soon be made the recipient of that truly justice which has so long been her due, and this will be devoured another of those venomous-cooperative movements, the success of which is which is likely to determine the result of the war.

The Parisian *Advertiser*, speaking of the sailing of the expedition, says:

Information from New York and Norfolk, which camp to the south, and the main point informs us that one hundred and twenty vessels had sailed from Washington, and that two schooners, one loaded with cattle and the other with coal, had gone ashore on Hatteras Shores. The crew of the schooner "see them" than went away, but the crew of the "Fancy" refused to do so, and carried the vessel to W. End. It is a large vessel, and carries a heavy load of coal, and it is most soon bound for its destination.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times, speaking on the point of destination of the expedition, writes:

The expedition against Charleston seems to have been planned by Butler, and that he will be given command of the expedition. The Times says:

The report of General Butler to Charleston is intended to head off the execution of the propositions intended to be made to the South, and to be made to the government. General Butler has given his views from this city as a base, and has set a characteristic of his government, and the course he will pursue in concluding in the negotiations.

The New York Times, speaking of the expedition and its probable destination, says: "The world says we get into trouble in Charleston, because that is capitulation, and then there are afraid that he would not surrender the command or himself, that he would die first." Gen. Floyd then spoke out and said that he would not surrender his command or himself. Gen. Buckner replied that if placed in command he would surrender and share its fate. Gen. Floyd then said: Gen. Buckner, if I place you in command, will you allow me to get out as much of my brigade as I can? Gen. Buckner replied: I will, provided you do so before the enemy receives my proposition for capitulation. Gen. Floyd then turned and said to Pillow: I turn the command over to you. Gen. Buckner replied promptly, I pass. Gen. Buckner said: I assume it. Give me pen, ink and paper, and send for a bugler.

Gen. Forrest said: General Pillow, what shall I do? Gen. Pillow replied: cut your way out.

Gen. Buckner said: That Gen. Pillow insisted on carrying out the previous determination of the command in that way, but that being refused, he said that they should fight another day in the trenches and boats came when they could pass across the river and make their escape by the way of Clarksville to both of which propositions the answers were given as above stated. Gen. Floyd asked

what was to be done. Gen. Buckner stated that no officer had a right to sacrifice his men alighted to their success and the force opposed to them, and stated that they would now surrender with honor. Gen. Floyd said he would never surrender. Gen. Floyd said he would suffer any fate before he would fall in the hands of the enemy alive.

Gen. Forrest said he would die before he would surrender, that such of his men as would follow him he would take out.

It was suggested by more than two boats were known to be coming down, might arrive before day.

Gen. Floyd asked if he could might be permitted to take his troops to them? Gen. Buckner replied: You can't leave, we could do so before his note was sent to Gen. Grant.

Major N. L. Johnson and Haynes stated substantially the same as the general positions of the officers. Major Haynes says you are leaving the room I keep. Gen. Buckner say I cannot hold my position here after an attack. Gen. Pillow who was about next to Gen. Buckner, and immediately fronting the fire places, promptly asked why can't you? at the same time adding, I think you can hold your position, I think you can, sir. Gen. Buckner retorted, I know my position. I can only bring to bear against the enemy about 4000 men, while he has over 10,000 men.

Major N. L. Johnson states the conversation as follows:

Gen. Buckner remarked, I am confident the enemy will attack my lines by night, and I can not hold them half an hour. Gen. Pillow replied quickly, why not? Gen. Buckner replied I can bring into action only about 1000 men, and much demoralized, by long exposure and hard fighting while in camp, being my amount of fresh troops. Gen. Floyd replied; I differ with you, I think you can hold your lines, I think you can sit, see. Buckner replied I know my position, and I know that the lines cannot be held, and that my troops in their present condition,

TO BE CONTINUED.

the New York Herald, Feb. 13.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

The steamer Asia, Captain Shannon, from Liverpool at eight o'clock, on the morning of the 21st ult., and from Queenstown on the evening of the 1st inst., arrived at this port yesterday (Sunday) morning.

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